ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A system for load balancing in a network environment including a plurality of network resources coupled to a network wherein at least some of the network resources provide redundant services. A client is coupled to the network and a gateway machine is coupled to the network in communication with the client. The gateway machine is configured to receive requests from the client, establish communication channel through the network with a network resource specified by the client, and access the specified network resources to service the received client requests. The gateway machine includes or is coupled to mechanisms for selecting amongst providers of redundant services a particular provider for a received request so as to balance load amongst the plurality of resources providing redundant services.

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